



IOWA AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE ISSUE BRIEF

Iowa Afterschool Alliance Fact Sheet

This issue brief is the fourth in a series developed by the Iowa Afterschool Alliance. Each issue brief is designed to educate policymakers about important issues relating to Iowa's afterschool programs in an effort to encourage well-informed policies for those programs. Please note, however, that the views and opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the organizations employing the Alliance members.

Introduction

This fact sheet will provide a summary of key findings from the Iowa After School Program Survey, a survey conducted for the Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) in 2005 by Dr. Robert Stensrud. The survey collected baseline data about out-of-school programs located within public schools, which did not include information about sports or other extra curricular activities. While the survey focuses solely on school-based programs, the IAA recognizes there are many quality out-of-school programs which exist outside of schools. The IAA hopes to collect similar information about non-school-based programs in the future.

Methodology

The paper-based survey was mailed to representatives from each of the 366 school districts in Iowa. A 100% response rate (366) was reached after follow up phone calls to each school district. Data analysis was conducted using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

Results and Key Findings

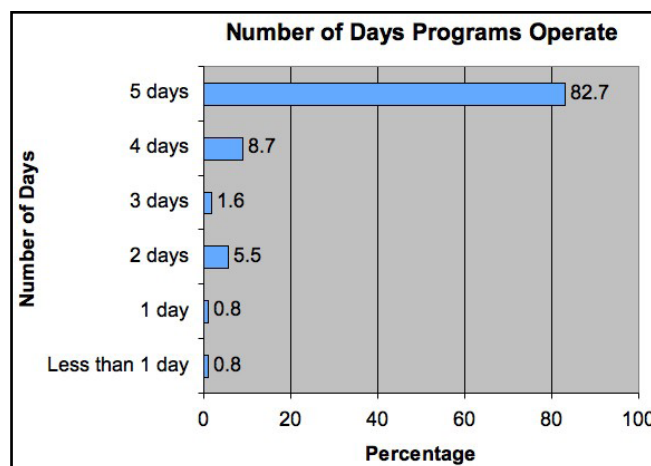
Where are school-based out-of-school programs located?

- Of the 366 public school districts in Iowa, only 127 (34.6%) reported having out-of-school program(s).

When are school-based out-of-school programs in operation and how are they staffed?

- Over 80% of the 127 schools districts with a program reported that their program operated five days per week.
 - » None of the respondents operated a program more than five days per week, which suggests there is likely to be no programs in operation on the weekends.

- When asked if the programs were operating at full capacity, nearly 41% responded positively.
 - » Nearly 19% of those with programs operating at full capacity reported keeping a waiting list ranging from zero to 115 children (over 50% had ten or fewer on their waiting lists).



Source: Iowa After School Program Survey, 2005

- Over 30% of the respondents (39) with a program reported having zero paid full-time staff.
 - » 32.3% reported having one paid full-time staff.
 - » 11.8% reported having two paid full-time staff.
- 51.2% of respondents (65) reported having three or fewer paid part-time staff.

What programs or activities are offered at school-based out-of-school programs?

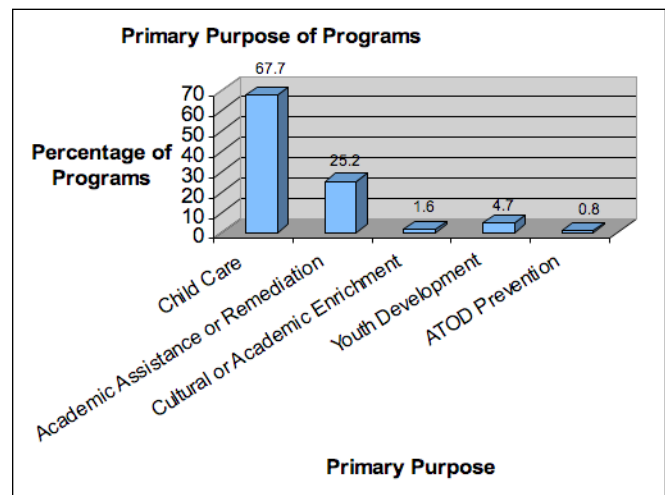
- The majority of respondents with programs (68.5%) indicated they tried to link their program to academic programs while 51.2% indicated

they tried to link their program to homework assignments. (Respondents were asked to “check all that apply” from a list.)

- Respondents were asked to indicate what they believed the primary purpose of their programs was: 67.6% reported child care and 25.2% reported academic assistance or remediation.
 - » No respondents reported that the primary purpose of their program was recreation or pregnancy prevention.
- Respondents were asked to “check all that apply” from a list of options about activities or components offered through their program. The most commonly listed responses follow:
 - » Homework assistance – 86.6%
 - » Sports and recreation – 81.1%.
 - » Academic enrichment activities – 65.4%
 - » Health / nutrition education activities – 62.2%
 - » Drama / arts / theatre / music / dance – 55.1%
 - » Tutoring – 52.8%

How are school-based out-of-school programs funded?

- Parent fees were reported as the primary source of funding for 58.3% of the respondents, the most often reported primary source of funding.
 - » The second most often reported type of primary funding was a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant (a federal grant) with 21.3% respondents reporting.



Source: Iowa After School Program Survey, 2005

- » No respondents listed child care assistance revenue, private contributions, special taxes, or Title IV revenue as their primary source of funding.

Conclusions

- Approximately 65% of Iowa school districts do not offer out-of-school programs.
- Beyond parent fees and some federal funding, there are no major funding sources for out-of-school programs in Iowa.
- School-based out-of-school programs are beginning to fill the state’s significant need for school-aged child care. However, with additional support these programs can more fully provide extra learning opportunities for Iowa youth.



What is the Iowa Afterschool Alliance?

The Iowa Afterschool Alliance (IAA) is a statewide coalition of networks and interest groups who support, advocate, train, and work to advance afterschool and out-of-school time experiences which are meaningful and beneficial for children, youth, families, and communities. The IAA works with the Chrysalis Foundation, the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development, and a variety of other partners from across the state. The IAA’s primary source of financial support is a Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Statewide Afterschool Network grant.

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